



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services
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COUNTY COMPLETES BAIT STATION INSTALLMENT ON SCHEDULE *Vector Control Begins Monitoring for Activity*

(Phoenix)— The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (MCESD) wrapped up the installment of more than six thousand bait stations this week, on schedule to meet the April 5 deadline pledged to the Board of Supervisors. Vector Control staff and department volunteers posted the bait stations in a 20-square-mile region of the east Phoenix neighborhood that has been battling roof rats.

“Thanks to the spirit of teamwork and volunteers, we are on target to meet the six week completion date we pledged to the Board of Supervisors when they approved the expenditure on February 25th,” said Al Brown, Director of the Environmental Services Department, who himself put up more than 150 bait stations on his eight-hour shift.

Forty-three volunteers from the Environmental Services Department worked as apprentices under the direct supervision of nine state certified vector control officers to install the bait stations on utility poles in neighborhood alleyways. MCESD began monitoring the bait stations, made by Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s tent city inmates, this week.

The 20-square-mile region includes areas with confirmed roof rat problems and an expanded buffer zone outside the perimeter, which covers 20th Street to Scottsdale Road (72nd St.) and Bethany Home to McDowell. Residents can help by continuing with citrus and yard clean-up, rat-proofing their homes and using snap traps and bait stations provided by neighborhood groups.

The Arizona Department of Health Services has tested 23 rats so far and all were negative for hantavirus, tularemia and bubonic plague.

For more information about roof rats, go to www.maricopa.gov/envsvc. To report a complaint, call the Citizen’s Environmental Complaint Line at (602) 506-6616 or go on-line to: www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/communit/complain.asp. For snap traps or bait stations, call the Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign at (602) 667-0366.